

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 have been examined. Claims 13-21 have been added. Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application.

***Formal Matters***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings as filed on June 24, 2003, and for acknowledging claim to foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

***Claim Objections***

Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, in light of the arguments that follow, Applicant respectfully holds in abeyance such rewriting of claim 11.

***Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,734,414 to Nishimura. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that Nishimura does not teach or otherwise disclose a camera system comprising a digital camera and a removable cradle. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 to recite that the cradle is removable, and accordingly,

respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 are patentable over Nishimura for this reason.

The remaining claim are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

With further regard to independent claim 2, claim 2 recites that the cradle comprises *inter alia* a movable portion. The Examiner maintains that the support base 73 corresponds to the claimed cradle. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees. At col. 4, lines 28-32, Nishimura states that the support base 73 is stationary. Therefore, it is not possible for the stationary support base 73 to include a movable portion as claimed.

Claim 2 also recites a feature of a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion. The Examiner maintains that the zoom control of Nishimura corresponds to changing functions of the digital camera, because the auto focus and zoom is changed depending on whether the digital camera is in the document pickup or person pickup position. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. Applicant notes that auto focus and zoom are functions of a camera which are used regardless of the position of the movable portion. Thus, Nishimura merely discloses changing the setting of the zoom or the setting of the auto focus, and not changing a function of the digital camera. That is, the function of the digital camera remains the same in both tilt positions of the lens part 72. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over Nishimura for these additional reasons.

With further regard to claim 5, claim 5 recites the feature that the movable system enables the camera mounting unit to move relative to the leg portion. The Examiner appears to suggest that the shafts 722 correspond to the claimed movable system, the bearing parts 711a

correspond to the claimed camera mounting unit, and the camera unit body 71 corresponds to the claimed leg portion. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. Even assuming *arguendo* that the shafts 722, bearing parts 711a and camera unit body 71 correspond to the claimed movable system, camera mounting unit, and leg portion, respectively, Applicant notes that the bearing parts 711a are stationary, and do not move (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 61-64). Thus, the bearing parts 711a do not move relative to the camera unit body 71 because the bearing parts 711a form the pivot point about which the lens block holding member 711 pivots. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over Nishimura for this additional reason.

With further regard to claim 7, claim 7 recites the feature wherein the digital camera is connected to communicate with the external equipment through the cradle by mounting the digital camera on the cradle. The Examiner maintains that the lens block 72 communicates with the monitor 1, which the Examiner asserts corresponds to the claimed external equipment. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. At col. 4, lines 36-48, Nishimura describes that the lens block 72 picks up a person positioned in front of the monitor, or picks up a document subject 5 that is positioned in front of the monitor 1. However, Nishimura does not disclose that the digital camera communicates in any way with the monitor 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is patentable over Nishimura for this additional reason.

With respect to independent claim 9, claim 9 recites the feature of a mode control device which changes operation modes according to the command signal obtained through the signal

receiving device. The Examiner maintains that the auto focus and zoom circuit 725 of Nishimura corresponds to the mode control device. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. As noted above, the auto focus and zoom circuit 725 does not change the operation mode of the camera. Rather, the auto focus and zoom circuit 725 only changes the setting of the auto focus and/or zoom. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over Nishiura for this additional reason.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 12, these claims recite features similar to claims 2 and 9 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Nishimura for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to the patentability of claims 2 and 9. For the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

***New Claims***

Applicant herein adds new dependent claims 13-21 in order to claim additional features of the invention, and respectfully submits that claims 13-21 are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

*Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111*  
*U.S. Appln No. 10/601,530*

**Q76183**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

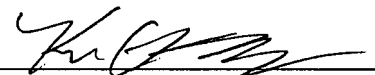
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**23373**

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